

Approved Minutes of April 15, 2003 Technical Advisory Meeting

Members Present	Roger Thompson Rodney Pingree Allison Lowry Gail Center	Jeff Williams John Forcier Phil Dechert Dave Cotton
Others Attending	Marilyn Davis	Frank O'Brien

Scheduled Meetings

May 13, 2003	1-4 PM	Chapel Conference Room
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Review of Agenda –

The proposed agenda was reviewed and modified. An item was added for John's update of the soils course. An item was added for Jeff and Rodney's update on the well driller's subcommittee. An item was added related to possible rules changes other than delegation and designers. It was decided that the trip by Frank and Allison to the Regulator's Conference had been sufficiently reviewed at the previous meeting.

Review of Minutes -

There was a typo on page four of the minutes of the April 1, 2003 meeting. The "B" after the heading for the Well Driller's Subcommittee should be removed.

Legislative Update –

John reviewed his presentations on H.309 to the Senate Natural Resources Committee on 4-11-03. John noted that he had met with House Natural Resources on 4-3-2003. John said that he had given the same presentation, based on the TAC letter he prepared for the committees and that he had been asked if he personally supported the proposed changes in H.309 and that he had testified that he did support the changes.

Roger reviewed the testimony of Karen Horn who was requesting that towns be able to have more stringent rules than the state. The Agency position was that H.309 should be a clean amendment without any changes in the criteria except for extending the November 1, 2002 date to November 1, 2004. Senator Gossens said he would be willing to introduce a separate bill for Karen so her issues could be reviewed. Senator Scott made a comment that he was hoping for more progress on adopting new systems.

Roger asked for committee comment on how they thought the new system review process was going. Dave said he was pretty satisfied.

Roger also reviewed the Addison County Legislative Breakfast meeting of April 14th. Roger and Commissioner Wennberg attended to answer questions about the on-site

program and new rules. Much of the time was spent discussing issues presented by Elizabeth Ready related to her position as State Auditor, but the Commissioner made an overall presentation of the changes in the rules and implementation of the program so far. Steve LaRosa gave a strong statement of support for the Agency changes that have occurred to date noting that there had been some measurable decrease in the length of time to obtain a permit.

Roger also noted that there were some practices that were being prepared for review by the Commissioner that would then be reviewed by the committee.

Uniform Rules –

Based on the potential for a bill that would allow for towns to have more stringent rules, the committee was polled on the issue of whether there should be uniform statewide rules or if towns should be able to adopt more stringent versions. There was unanimous agreement that the rules should be uniform statewide.

Soils Training Course –

John gave an update on the course and handed out a copy of the official notice. Mike Quaid, a new member of the Professional Engineering Board has indicated that he thinks the P.E. Board may decide that the course satisfies the requirement that engineers demonstrate soils knowledge based on course work. Allison will also be running the soils test again in June so any engineer wishing to use the test to meet the requirements will have another chance before the July 1 deadline.

Designers who are not Professional Engineers –

Roger presented the latest draft of the language for the rule revision. Gail asked about review by the Agency of water storage designs that would be allowed for non-engineers. Roger said that this topic would be covered as part of the continuing education that is required and that questions could be added to the exam. Labor and Industry also has training courses on control systems for storage tanks. The committee approved sending the draft rule forward in the adoption process.

Delegation –

Marilyn reviewed the draft and noted that there had been few comments. The draft will be revised to deal with the comments from Gerry Kittle. The language will be clarified to make it clear that the town reviewer does not have to meet stricter performance standards than state reviewers doing the same work. The committee approved sending the draft rule, with the revisions, forward in the adoption process.

Possible Rule Changes –

Roger presented a list of potential changes to the rules. Several of the changes are typos or clarity issues. It was agreed to add an isolation distance to the rules for gravity water storage tanks of 50' to leachfields and 25' to septic tanks and sewer lines for non-public water systems. The public water system rules already have an isolation distance specified. It was decided to defer a decision on how to separate mound systems from at-grade systems to future rule revisions. It was decided to continue requiring leakage testing of all force mains, including those that serve non-municipal connections such as those for a mound disposal system. It was decided that additional topics could be reviewed and minor changes incorporated as part of the public comment process that would occur after ICAR but before LCAR.

Possible Revisions to Pressure Distribution Requirements –

Dave had prepared some language to revise the pressure distribution requirements in response to many comments from consultants at the training sessions that he had given. Roger noted that this topic had just been through the rule making process and should not just be revised in response to people who don't like it. A revision should be based on a determination that the requirement is wrong, or a determination that there is more than one equivalent method, or a determination that the issue should not be regulated. It was decided to defer this issue until the committee could study it in more detail and then it could be incorporated if appropriate.

GPS Reading –

Jeff and John talked about use of GPS equipment and in particular the need to keep careful records. The machines can operate in more than one mode and each give different answers. The rules should clearly state what is acceptable as part of an application.

Well Driller's Subcommittee –

Rodney reviewed the subcommittee meeting that occurred earlier in the day. The subcommittee wants to establish better criteria for determining best fit and exempt systems. The committee discussed some basic soils knowledge that could be given to well drillers interested in being approved to site replacement wells, maybe something that would break the soils into categories of clay, loam, and sand. The goal is to provide a basic understanding to help well drillers pick a well site that does not compromise the future replacement of the septic system.

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, Barbara Willis and Marilyn Davis.

Licensed designers - Spencer Harris, Gary Fern, Alan Huizenga for Lance Phelps, and Gerry Kittle.

Well driller's knowledge checklist-- Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Roger Thompson, Bernie Chenette and Steve Revell.

Interested in the delegation rules-- Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Kimberley Crosby, Phil Dechert, Gary Fern and Alan Huizenga